

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1 and 2: (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended) A cutting block for a sawing machine for sawing stone blocks into slabs, comprising a pair of opposed yokes for tensioning a plurality of blades by means of tie-bars with spurs, said tie-bars which hold said blades each have a single spur between two substantially parallel blades (26), according to claim 2;

each said spur constitutes a spacing straightedge for said two blades; and

wherein each said spur (62, 64, 80, 82) has lateral surfaces for the support of said two blades placed side by side, arranged at a predetermined distance.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A cutting block (26), according to claim 1,~~ A cutting block for a sawing machine for sawing stone blocks into slabs, comprising a pair of opposed yokes for tensioning a plurality of blades by means of tie-bars with spurs, said tie-bars which hold said blades each have a single spur between two substantially parallel blades; and

wherein each of said tie-bars tie-bar (46, 47) has on its includes a respective flank having flanks two L-shaped channels at one end of each said respective flank of the end (58, 60) for coupling to the each of said blades blade (44) two opposed channels with L-shaped profile and constituting incomplete seats (66) for said blades (44) placed side by side.

5. (Currently Amended) A cutting block (26), according to claim [[2]] 4, wherein said tie-bars (46, 47) co-operate with plate-like reinforcing members (76, 78) ~~alongside, and each said~~ plate-like reinforcing member is provided with a spur (80, 82).

6. (Currently Amended) A cutting block (26), according to claim 5, wherein said reinforcing members (76, 78) are coupled by pressure to the flanks ~~of the tie-bars (46, 47).~~

7. (Currently Amended) A cutting block (26), according to claim 6, wherein said reinforcing members (76, 78) are connected to the said flanks (88, 90) of the tie-bars (46, 47) by threaded means (92) screwed into threaded holes (94) provided in the bar (68) of the tie-bars (46, 47).

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A cutting block (26), according to claim 7,~~ A cutting block for a sawing machine for sawing stone blocks into slabs, comprising a pair of opposed yokes for tensioning a plurality of blades by means of tie-bars with spurs, wherein said tie-bars which hold said blades each have a single spur between two substantially parallel blades;

each said spur constitutes a spacing straightedge for said two blades;

said tie-bars co-operate with plate-like reinforcing members, and each said plate-like reinforcing member is provided with a spur,

said reinforcing members are coupled by pressure to the flanks,

said reinforcing members are connected to said flanks by threaded means screwed into threaded holes provided in the tie-bars, and

wherein said threaded means (92) each have a head (96) which is adapted to be countersunk in seats (98) provided in the said reinforcing members (76, 78).

9. (Currently Amended) A cutting block (26), according to claim 8, wherein said seats (98) are conical and receive conical heads (96) of screws (92).

10. (Currently Amended) A cutting block (26), according to claim [[1]] 3, wherein the each said tie-bar comprises a bar and ~~wherein~~ each said spur (62, 64, 80, 82) extends from the said bar of the tie-bar in the manner of to form a hammer-head shape.

11. (Currently Amended) A cutting block (26), according to claim 10, wherein said spur (62, 64, 80, 82) constitutes a warp-preventing guide for the said blades (44) ~~placed side by side~~.

12. (Currently Amended) A cutting block (26), according to claim [[1]] 3, wherein each said spur (62, 64, 80, 82) is provided with a through hole (70) ~~that can be~~ to be aligned with a

corresponding blade through hole (72) ~~provided in the coupling end of the blade (44)~~ for receiving a connecting pin (74).

13. (Currently Amended) A cutting block (26), according to ~~claims 5 and claim~~ claim 12, wherein ~~the lateral surface (84, 86) of the said spur (80, 82) has a lateral surface~~ provided at the one end of the said plate-like reinforcing member (76, 78) and operative as ~~constitutes~~ an abutment for said connecting pin (74).

14. (Currently Amended) A cutting block (26), according to ~~claims claim~~ claim 5 and 12, wherein ~~the each said spur (80, 82) provided with each said of the plate-like reinforcing member (76, 78) has a spur through hole (100) corresponding with a respective tie-bar through hole, wherein said spur through hole has coaxial with the through hole (70) of the co-operating tie-bar (46, 47) and having a smaller diameter smaller than the diameter of said respective tie-bar through hole.~~

15. (Currently Amended) A cutting block (26), according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 4, wherein ~~each respective flank the flanks of the end of each of said tie-bars (46, 47) co-operate with the an opposed respective flank of the a substantially parallel tie-bar (46, 47) alongside, constituting to provide attachment seats for the ends of the said blades (44).~~

16. (Currently Amended) ~~A cutting block (26), according to claim 1, A cutting block for a sawing machine for sawing stone blocks into slabs, comprising a pair of opposed yokes for tensioning a plurality of blades by means of tie-bars with spurs, wherein said tie-bars which hold said blades each have a single spur between two substantially parallel blades, wherein said tie-bars (46, 47) are arranged with the flanks in mutual contact.~~

17. (Currently Amended) A cutting block (26), according to claim 16, wherein each ~~said tie-bars tie-bar (46, 47) has [[a]] an L-shaped channel with L-shaped profile which constitutes and constituting an incomplete attachment seat for said blades the blade (44).~~

18. (New) A cutting block for a sawing machine for sawing stone blocks, the cutting block comprising:

at least two opposing tie-bars operative to hold a plurality of blades extending between the tie-bars;

each tie-bar having an end, a respective spur coupled to the end of each tie bar, and each spur is positioned between two respective blades, each spur providing a straightedge space between the two blades, and each spur including lateral surfaces to support the blades; and

a pair of opposed yokes coupled to the at least two opposing tie-bars and operative to adjust the tension of the plurality of substantially parallel blades.

19. (New) A cutting block according to claim 18, further comprising a plurality of substantially parallel blades operative to saw the stone blocks and held by the tie-bars.